

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/803,082
Amendment filed November 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 24, 2004.

As it stands, claims 1 and 3 - 8 remain in this application, claims 1 and 7 being independent claims..

At the outset, the applicants thank the Examiner for now indicating that claims 2 - 6 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended in the manner suggested in item 5, page 3 of the outstanding Office Action.

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In the outstanding Action however, the following rejections are set forth:

(1) claims 1 and 7 - 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,447); and

(2) claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,447).

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

As indicated above, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the outstanding rejections of claim 9 are now moot.

As to the remaining claims, the applicants have included the allowable subject matter of claim 2 in each of independent claims 1 and 7. Thus, the outstanding rejection of claims 1 and 7 is now also moot. Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 should now be similarly allowable.

Claim 2, with its subject matter now set forth in independent claims 1 and 7, has been canceled in order to avoid duplicate claimed subject matter.

Claims 3 - 6 and 8 depend on claims 1 and 7, respectively. Thus, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 7, claims 3 - 6 and 8 should now be similarly allowable.

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In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC 102(e) based on Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,447), and the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) also based on Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,447) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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